Claim 13. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein forming the deployment region comprises:

providing at least one scoring member which is extendable and retractable upon actuation of the device;

C1 contacting the at least one scoring member with the instrument panel cover at only the inner surface thereof during the formation of the instrument panel cover; and

forming the at least one score by advancing the at least one scoring member into the instrument panel cover from the inner surface thereof, the advancement of the at least one scoring member causing the instrument panel cover to thin out in predetermined locations which define the at least one score.

Claim 31. (Amended) The method as in claim 28, wherein the at least one scoring device comprises a scoring blade which forms apart of a moveable cylinder, the at least one scoring blade being extendable and retractable relative to the cylinder, the cylinder and at least one scoring blade being orientated above the body so that upon actuation thereof, the cylinder and at least one scoring blade are lowered to contact the body and form the at least one score.

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Claim 33. (Amended) A method for forming a hidden, integral passenger air bag door in a portion of an instrument panel cover, comprising:

vacuum forming the instrument panel cover having an inner surface and an opposing outer surface; and

C3 forming a deployment region in the inner surface of the instrument panel cover by contacting only the inner surface with at least one scoring device after initiation of the vacuum formation of the instrument panel cover creating at least one score therein, but prior to the cooling thereof, the at least one score defining the deployment region and providing a weakened tear pattern in the inner surface wherein the deployment of an air bag cushion causes the deployment region of the instrument panel cover to tear open along at the at least one score for deployment of the air bag cushion.

Claim 34. (Amended) A method for forming a hidden, integral passenger air bag door in a portion of an instrument panel cover, comprising:

applying a quantity of thermoplastic material to a vacuum forming tool;

vacuum forming the instrument panel cover having an inner surface and an opposing exterior surface; and

forming a deployment region in the inner surface of the instrument panel cover by contacting only the inner surface with at least one scoring device after initiation of the vacuum formation of the instrument panel cover creating at least one score therein, the at least one score defining the deployment region and providing a weakened tear pattern in the inner surface wherein the deployment of an air bag cushion causes the deployment region of the instrument panel cover to tear open along at the at least one score for deployment of the air bag cushion, the deployment region being formed after or during the vacuum forming of the instrument panel, but prior to the cooling thereof.

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